BMJ Best Practice



Clinical Scenarios

A 19-year-old man presents with a 2-day history of headache and associated nausea.

He says that bright lights hurt his eyes. He has no significant past medical history, is not currently taking any medicine, and reports no drug allergies. He works as a librarian and has not travelled overseas for the past year. He lives with his girlfriend.

On examination, he has a fever and neck stiffness. Lumbar puncture reveals polymorphonuclear pleocytosis, raised protein and low glucose in the CSF.



What do you think is going on?

What tests would you request?

And what would vou do?

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